

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOI

REF: ROME'S 6208

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. LEADERS OF LABOR CONFEDERATIONS AND THEIR VARIOUS AFFILIATED UNIONS HAVE BEEN MEETING JOINTLY PAST SEVERAL DAYS TO ASSESS RESULTS MAY 2 MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT AND PLAN APPROACH FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT ON MAY 16. SOME DIFFERENCES HAVE EMERGED BETWEEN CONFEDERATIONS AND AFFILIATES WITH RESPECT TO PRIORITY OF DEMANDS TO BE LEVIED ON GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN LEADERS OF CGIL, CISL, UIL (CCU) AND AFFILIATED UNIONS PAST SEVERAL DAYS, CONFEDERATIONS HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF CONCENTRATING EXCESSIVELY ON SOCIAL OBJECTIVES (E.G., INVEST

MENTS IN URBAN TRANSPORT AND NURSERIES) WHEREAS CATEGORY UNIONS FEEL PRESSURES FOR BREAD AND BUTTER ITEMS SUCH AS TYING PENSIONS TO WAGE DEVELOPMENTS AND SECURING WAGE ESCALATION FOR ALL THE SAME FLAT, HIGH

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LEVEL. LATTER ISSUE, IN FACT, WAS NOT TAKEN UP AT ALL BY CCU ON

MAY 2 DUE TO CGIL OPPOSITION. CGIL CHIEF LAMA NOW DECLARES IDEA IS MERITORIOUS AND MAY WELL BE PURSUED BY CCU IN MAY MEETING.

3. PRESS HAS BEEN, AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO BE, MORE ALARMIST RE NEAR TERM STRIKE POSSIBILITIES THAN OUR LABOR SOURCES SAY IS WARRANTED. THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT IN LABOR CIRCLES THAT GENERAL STRIKE WEAPON HAS LOST WHATEVER USEFULNESS IT HAD. HOWEVER, CATEGORY UNIONS, PARTICULARLY METAL WORKERS, ARE URGING ARTICULATED REGIONAL STRIKES IN EVENT GOVERNMENT NOT SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING ON MAY 16.

4. LABOR MINISTER BERTOLDI (PSI), MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT GROUP MEETING WITH LABOR, IS QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING THAT, WHILE GOVERNMENT CANNOT ACCEPT ALL OF LABOR'S REQUESTS, "WE OUGHT TO OFFER CONCRETE REPLIES, INCLUDING FAVORABLE ONES." BERTOLDI GOES ON TO SAY THAT "A FRONTAL CONFRONTATION WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO CRISIS SINCE SOCIALISTS COULD NOT REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT" UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS. HOWEVER, HE ADDS THAT HE EXPECTS NO SUCH CONFRONTATION SINCE "DIALOGUE IS ONLY WAY IN WHICH TO MASTER OUR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES."

5. COMMENT: PROSPECTS FOR CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS ON 16TH NOT BRIGHT. LABOR NOT UNITED IN SPECIFICS AND PRIORITIES OF OBJECTIVES. MORE IMPORTANT, GOVERNMENT HAMSTRUNG BY NATION'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC CONDITION AND PROSPECTS, AND BY ITS OWN INTRINSIC WEAKNESS. NEVERTHELESS, SINCE NEITHER LABOR NOR GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN FORCING CONFRONTATION, MAY 16 MEETING LIKELY TO PRODUCE SUFFICIENT PROGRESS TO JUSTIFY CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE. VOLPE

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